

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253645

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION LEVEL: FIRST SPECIAL
SESSION

REF: LONDON 15325

1. IN LIGHT REFTEL EMBASSY MAY FIND OF INTEREST FOLLOWING
COMMENTS BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL CONVERSATIONS AND UK INTER-
VENTIONS AT GENEVA GROUP MEETING IN NEW YORK.

2. UKDEL, AS EMBASSY AWARE, WAS UNDER STRICT MINISTERIAL-
LEVEL INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO SUPPORT FRENCH PROPOSAL.

3. PROFESSIONALS IN FCO SEE FRENCH PROPOSAL AS THE ONLY
LOGICAL - AND PERHAPS EVENTUALLY INEVITABLE - APPROACH TO A
SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY. MINISTERIAL-
LEVEL OPPOSITION APPARENTLY REFLECTS CONCERN ABOUT POTENTIAL
NEGATIVE LDC REACTION AND POSSIBLE ILLEGALITY OF PROPOSAL.

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(WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT ONE KEY MINISTER IS AUTHOR OF A

BOOK ON SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND MAY, THEREFORE, HAVE AN IMMOVABLE BIAS IN THEIR FAVOR.)

4. THE BRITISH TREASURY THUS FAR HAS SHOWN ONLY SOFT SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH PROPOSAL, PERHAPS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT YET

APPRECIATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM. OTHER MINISTRIES, SUCH AS HEALTH, EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE, (AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES) TAKE A VERY PAROCHIAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM AND HAVE NO WISH TO RESTRICT THEIR RESPECTIVE FIEFDOMS.

5. ON THE MATTER OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT, THE UK ARGUMENT RUNS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. A STATEMENT WOULD SERVE TO PIN DOWN THE SOFTER MEMBERS OF THE GENEVA GROUP TO POSITIONS THAT COULD IN THE FUTURE BE POINTED TO BY ALL MEMBERS. FURTHER, IT WOULD BE LIKELY TO PROVOKE LESS REACTION FROM THE LDCS THAN PRIVATE DEMARCHES TO SAS SUGGESTED BY SOME GG MEMBERS.

6. ON THE MATTER OF INCLUDING UN ITEMS IN GG DISCUSSIONS, THE UK SUGGESTS THAT A SEPARATION OF THE UN AND SAS IS SOMEWHAT ARTIFICIAL AND MUST GRADUALLY GIVE WAY TO A MORE COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT SYSTEM-WIDE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS (SUCH AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GENERAL SERVICE SALARIES AND THE ALLOWANCE SYSTEM).

7. FROM THE PROFESSIONALS' VIEWPOINT, THE MOST DESIRABLE MEETING OUTCOME WOULD HAVE BEEN SOLID GG SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WITH A RESULTANT STRONG PRESSURE ON THE UK TO FOLLOW SUIT. KISSINGER

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